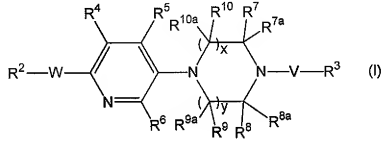
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of inhibiting human stearoyl-CoA desaturase (hSCD) activity comprising contacting a source of hSCD with a compound of formula (I):



wherein:

x and y are each independently 1~~, 2 or 3~~;

W is -O-, -N(R^1)-, -C(O)-, -S(O)$_t$-; (where t is 0, 1 or 2), -N(R^1)S(O)$_2$-, -S(O)$_2$N(R^1)-, -OS(O)$_2$N(R^1)-, -C(O)N(R^1)-, -OC(O)N(R^1)-, -C(S)N(R^1)-, -OC(S)N(R^1)-, -N(R^1)C(O)- or -N(R^1)C(O)N(R^1)-;

V is -C(O)-, -C(S)-, -C(O)N(R^1)-, -C(O)O-, -S(O)$_2$-, -S(O)$_2$N(R^1)- or -C(R^{11})H-;

each R^1 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_1-C_{12}alkyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkyl, C_4-C_{12}cycloalkylalkyl and C_7-C_{19}aralkyl;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_{12}alkyl, C_2-C_{12}alkenyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkenyl, C_2-C_{12}alkoxyalkyl, C_3-C_{12}cycloalkyl, C_4-C_{12}cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, C_7-C_{19}aralkyl, C_3-C_{12}heterocyclyl, C_3-C_{12}heterocyclylalkyl, C_1-C_{12}heteroaryl, and C_3-C_{12}heteroarylalkyl;

or R^2 is a multi-ring structure having 2 to 4 rings wherein the rings are independently selected from the group consisting of cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, aryl and heteroaryl and where some or all of the rings may be fused to each other;

R^3 is selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_{12}alkyl, C_2-C_{12}alkenyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkenyl, C_2-C_{12}alkoxyalkyl, C_3-C_{12}cycloalkyl, C_4-C_{12}cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, C_7-C_{19}aralkyl, C_3-C_{12}heterocyclyl, C_3-C_{12}heterocyclylalkyl, C_1-C_{12}heteroaryl and C_3-C_{12}heteroarylalkyl;

or R^3 is a multi-ring structure having 2 to 4 rings wherein the rings are independently selected from the group consisting of cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, aryl and heteroaryl and where some or all of the rings may be fused to each other;

R^4, R^5 and R^6 are each independently selected from hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, methyl, methoxy, trifluoromethyl, cyano, nitro or $-N(R^{13})_2$;

R^7, R^{7a}, R^8, R^{8a}, R^9, R^{9a}, R^{10} and R^{10a} are each independently selected from hydrogen or C_1-C_3alkyl;

~~or R^7 and R^{7a} together, or R^8 and R^{8a} together, or R^9 and R^{9a} together, or R^{10} and R^{10a} together are an oxo group, provided that when V is -C(O)-, R^7 and R^{7a} together or R^8 and R^{8a} together do not form an oxo group, while the remaining R^7, R^{7a}, R^8, R^{8a}, R^9, R^{9a}, R^{10}, and R^{10a} are each independently selected from hydrogen or C_1-C_3alkyl;~~

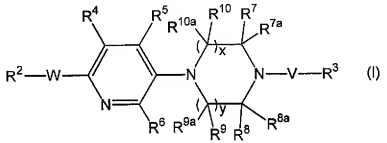
~~or one of R^{10}, R^{10a}, R^7, and R^{7a} together with one of R^8, R^{8a}, R^9 and R^{9a} form an alkylene bridge, while the remaining R^{10}, R^{10a}, R^7, R^{7a}, R^8, R^{8a}, R^9, and R^{9a} are each independently selected from hydrogen or C_1-C_3alkyl;~~

R^{11} is hydrogen or C_1-C_3alkyl; and

each R^{13} is independently selected from hydrogen or C_1-C_6alkyl;

a stereoisomer, enantiomer or tautomer thereof, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, a pharmaceutical composition thereof or a prodrug thereof.

2. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a disease or condition mediated by stearoyl-CoA desaturase (SCD) in a mammal, wherein the method comprises administering to the mammal in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein:

x and y are each independently 1~~, 2 or 3~~;

W is -O-, $-N(R^1)$-, -C(O)-, $-S(O)_t$-; (where t is 0, 1 or 2), $-N(R^1)S(O)_2$-, $-S(O)_2N(R^1)$-, $-C(O)N(R^1)$-, $-OC(O)N(R^1)$-, $-C(S)N(R^1)$-, $-OC(S)N(R^1)$-, $-N(R^1)C(O)$- or

-$N(R^1)C(O)N(R^1)$-;

V is -C(O)-, -C(S)-, -$C(O)N(R^1)$-, -C(O)O-, -$S(O)_2$-, -$S(O)_2N(R^1)$- or -$C(R^{11})H$-;

each R^1 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_1-C_{12}alkyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkyl, C_4-C_{12}cycloalkylalkyl and C_7-C_{19}aralkyl;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_{12}alkyl, C_2-C_{12}alkenyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkenyl, C_2-C_{12}alkoxyalkyl, C_3-C_{12}cycloalkyl, C_4-C_{12}cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, C_7-C_{19}aralkyl, C_3-C_{12}heterocyclyl, C_3-C_{12}heterocyclylalkyl, C_1-C_{12}heteroaryl, and C_3-C_{12}heteroarylalkyl;

or R^2 is a multi-ring structure having 2 to 4 rings wherein the rings are independently selected from the group consisting of cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, aryl and heteroaryl and where some or all of the rings may be fused to each other;

R^3 is selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_{12}alkyl, C_2-C_{12}alkenyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkenyl, C_2-C_{12}alkoxyalkyl, C_3-C_{12}cycloalkyl, C_4-C_{12}cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, C_7-C_{19}aralkyl, C_3-C_{12}heterocyclyl, C_3-C_{12}heterocyclylalkyl, C_1-C_{12}heteroaryl and C_3-C_{12}heteroarylalkyl;

or R^3 is a multi-ring structure having 2 to 4 rings wherein the rings are independently selected from the group consisting of cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, aryl and heteroaryl and where some or all of the rings may be fused to each other;

R^4, R^5 and R^6 are each independently selected from hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, methyl, methoxy, trifluoromethyl, cyano, nitro or -$N(R^{13})_2$;

R^7, R^{7a}, R^8, R^{8a}, R^9, R^{9a}, R^{10} and R^{10a} are each independently selected from hydrogen or C_1-C_3alkyl;

~~or R^7 and R^{7a} together, or R^8 and R^{8a} together, or R^9 and R^{9a} together, or R^{10} and R^{10a} together are an oxo group, provided that when V is -C(O)-, R^7 and R^{7a} together or R^8 and R^{8a} together do not form an oxo group, while the remaining R^7, R^{7a}, R^8, R^{8a}, R^9, R^{9a}, R^{10}, and R^{10a} are each independently selected from hydrogen or C_1-C_3alkyl;~~

~~or one of R^{10}, R^{10a}, R^7, and R^{7a} together with one of R^8, R^{8a}, R^9 and R^{9a} form an alkylene bridge, while the remaining R^{10}, R^{10a}, R^7, R^{7a}, R^8, R^{8a}, R^9, and R^{9a} are each independently selected from hydrogen or C_1-C_3alkyl;~~

R^{11} is hydrogen or C_1-C_3alkyl; and

each R^{13} is independently selected from hydrogen or C_1-C_6alkyl;

a stereoisomer, enantiomer or tautomer thereof, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, a pharmaceutical composition thereof or a prodrug thereof.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 2 wherein the mammal is a human.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 3 wherein the disease or condition is selected from the group consisting of Type II diabetes, impaired glucose tolerance, insulin resistance, obesity, fatty liver, non-alcoholic steatohepatitis, dyslipidemia, acne, and metabolic syndrome and any combination of these.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 4 wherein the disease or condition is Type II diabetes.

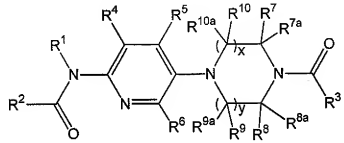
6. (Original) The method of Claim 4 wherein the disease or condition is obesity.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 4 wherein the disease or condition is metabolic syndrome.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 4 wherein the disease or condition is fatty liver.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 4 wherein the disease or condition is non-alcoholic steatohepatitis.

10. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (IIa):



(IIa)

wherein:

x and y are each independently 1~~, 2 or 3~~;

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_1-C_{12}alkyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkyl, C_4-C_{12}cycloalkylalkyl and C_7-C_{19}aralkyl;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of C_7-C_{12}alkyl, C_3-C_{12}alkenyl, C_7-C_{12}hydroxyalkyl, C_1-C_{12}alkoxy, C_2-C_{12}alkoxyalkyl, C_3-C_{12}hydroxyalkenyl, C_3-C_{12}cycloalkyl, C_4-C_{12}cycloalkylalkyl, C_{13}-C_{19}aralkyl, C_1-C_{12}heteroaryl, C_3-C_{12}heterocyclylalkyl and C_3-C_{12}heteroarylalkyl, provided that R^2 is not pyrazinyl, pyridinonyl, pyrrolidinone or imidazolyl;

or R^2 is a multi-ring structure having 2 to 4 rings wherein the rings are independently selected from the group consisting of cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, aryl and heteroaryl, where some or all of the rings may be fused to each other;

R^3 is selected from the group consisting of C_3-C_{12}alkyl, C_3-C_{12}alkenyl, C_3-C_{12}hydroxyalkyl, C_3-C_{12}hydroxyalkenyl, C_3-C_{12}alkoxy, C_3-C_{12}alkoxyalkyl, C_3-C_{12}cycloalkyl, C_4-C_{12}cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, C_7-C_{19}aralkyl, C_3-C_{12}heterocyclyl, C_3-C_{12}heterocyclylalkyl, C_1-C_{12} heteroaryl and C_3-C_{12}heteroarylalkyl;

R^4, R^5 and R^6 are each independently selected from hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, methyl, methoxy, trifluoromethyl, cyano, nitro or $-N(R^{13})_2$;

R^7, R^{7a}, R^8, R^{8a}, R^9, R^{9a}, R^{10}, and R^{10a} are each independently selected from hydrogen or C_1-C_3alkyl;

~~or R^9 and R^{9a} together, or R^{10} and R^{10a} together form an oxo group, while the remaining R^7, R^{7a}, R^8, R^{8a}, R^9, R^{9a}, R^{10}, and R^{10a} are each independently selected from hydrogen or C_1-C_3alkyl;~~

~~or one of R^7, R^{7a}, R^{10} and R^{10a}, together with one of R^8, R^{8a}, R^9 and R^{9a}, form an alkylene bridge, while the remaining R^{10}, R^{10a}, R^7, R^{7a}, R^8, R^{8a}, R^9, and R^{9a} are each independently selected from hydrogen or C_1-C_3alkyl;~~ and

each R^{13} is independently selected from hydrogen or C_1-C_6alkyl;

a stereoisomer, enantiomer or tautomer thereof, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, a pharmaceutical composition thereof or a prodrug thereof.

11. (Original) The compound of Claim 10 wherein:

x and y are each 1;

R^1 is hydrogen or C_1-C_6alkyl;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of C_7-C_{12}alkyl, C_3-C_{12}alkenyl, C_7-C_{12}hydroxyalkyl, C_2-C_{12}alkoxyalkyl, C_3-C_{12}hydroxyalkenyl, C_3-C_{12}cycloalkyl, C_4-C_{12}cycloalkylalkyl, C_{13}-C_{19}aralkyl, C_3-C_{12}heterocyclylalkyl, and C_3-C_{12}heteroarylalkyl;

R^3 is selected from the group consisting of C_3-C_{12}alkyl, C_3-C_{12}alkenyl, C_3-C_{12}hydroxyalkyl, C_3-C_{12}hydroxyalkenyl, C_3-C_{12}alkoxy, C_3-C_{12}alkoxyalkyl, C_3-C_{12}cycloalkyl,

C_4-C_{12}cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, C_7-C_{19}aralkyl, C_3-C_{12}heterocyclyl, C_3-C_{12}heterocyclylalkyl, C_1-C_{12} heteroaryl and C_3-C_{12}heteroarylalkyl;

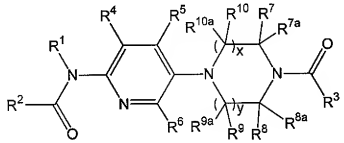
R^4, R^5 and R^6 are each hydrogen; and

R^7, R^{7a}, R^8, R^{8a}, R^9, R^{9a}, R^{10}, and R^{10a} are each hydrogen.

12. (Original) A method of treating a disease or condition mediated by stearoyl-CoA desaturase (SCD) in a mammal, wherein the method comprises administering to a mammal in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 10.

13. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 10.

14. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (IIb):



(IIb)

wherein:

x and y are each independently 1~~, 2 or 3~~;

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_1-C_{12}alkyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkyl, C_4-C_{12}cycloalkylalkyl and C_7-C_{19}aralkyl;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_{12}alkyl, C_2-C_{12}alkenyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkenyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_{12}alkoxyalkyl, C_3-C_{12}cycloalkyl, C_4-C_{12}cycloalkylalkyl, C_7-C_{19}aralkyl, C_3-C_{12} heterocyclyl, C_3-C_{12}heterocyclylalkyl, C_1-C_{12}heteroaryl and C_3-C_{12}heteroarylalkyl;

or R^2 is phenyl optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from halo and C_1-C_6trihaloalkyl;

or R^2 is a multi-ring structure having 2 to 4 rings wherein the rings are independently selected from the group consisting of cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, aryl and heteroaryl, where some or all of the rings may be fused to each other;

R^3 is phenyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, cyano, nitro, hydroxy, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6trihaloalkyl, C_1-C_6trihaloalkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylsulfonyl, $-N(R^{12})_2$, $-OC(O)R^{12}$, $-C(O)OR^{12}$, $-S(O)_2N(R^{12})_2$, cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl and heteroarylcycloalkyl, provided that R^3 is not phenyl substituted with optionally substituted thienyl;

R^4, R^5 and R^6 are each independently selected from hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, methyl, methoxy, trifluoromethyl, cyano, nitro or $-N(R^{13})_2$;

R^7, R^{7a}, R^8, R^{8a}, R^9, R^{9a}, R^{10}, and R^{10a} are each independently selected from hydrogen or C_1-C_3alkyl;

~~or R^9 and R^{9a} together, or R^{10} and R^{10a} together form an oxo group, while the remaining R^7, R^{7a}, R^8, R^{8a}, R^9, R^{9a}, R^{10}, and R^{10a} are each independently selected from hydrogen or C_1-C_3alkyl;~~

~~or one of R^7, R^{7a}, R^{10} and R^{10a}, together with one of R^8, R^{8a}, R^9 and R^{9a}, form an alkylene bridge, while the remaining R^{10}, R^{10a}, R^7, R^{7a}, R^8, R^{8a}, R^9, and R^{9a} are each independently selected from hydrogen or C_1-C_3alkyl;~~ and

each R^{12} is independently selected from hydrogen, C_1-C_8alkyl, C_3-C_6cycloalkyl, aryl or aralkyl; and

each R^{13} is independently selected from hydrogen or C_1-C_8alkyl;

a stereoisomer, enantiomer or tautomer thereof, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, a pharmaceutical composition thereof or a prodrug thereof.

15. (Original) The compound of Claim 14 wherein:

x and y are each 1;

R^1 is hydrogen or C_1-C_6alkyl;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_{12}alkyl, C_2-C_{12}alkenyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkenyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_{12}alkoxyalkyl, C_3-C_{12}cycloalkyl, C_4-C_{12}cycloalkylalkyl, C_7-C_{16}aralkyl, C_3-C_{12} heterocyclyl, C_3-C_{12}heterocyclylalkyl, C_1-C_{12}heteroaryl and C_3-C_{12}heteroarylalkyl;

or R^2 is phenyl optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from halo and C_1-C_6trihaloalkyl;

R^3 is phenyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, cyano, nitro, hydroxy, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6trihaloalkyl, C_1-C_6trihaloalkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylsulfonyl, $-N(R^{12})_2$, $-OC(O)R^{12}$, $-C(O)OR^{12}$ and $-S(O)_2N(R^{12})_2$;

R^4, R^5 and R^6 are each hydrogen;

R^7, R^{7a}, R^8, R^{8a}, R^9, R^{9a}, R^{10}, and R^{10a} are each hydrogen; and

each R^{12} is independently selected from hydrogen, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_3-C_6cycloalkyl, aryl or aralkyl.

16. (Original) The compound of Claim 15 wherein:

R^2 is C_7-C_{12}aralkyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, C_1-C_3alkyl and C_1-C_6trihaloalkyl; and

R^3 is phenyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6trihaloalkyl and C_1-C_6trihaloalkoxy.

17. (Original) The compound of Claim 16 selected from the group consisting of the following:

3-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-N-{5-[4-(2-trifluoromethyl-benzoyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-pyridin-2-yl}-propionamide;

4-Phenyl-N-{5-[4-(2-trifluoromethyl-benzoyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-pyridin-2-yl}-butyramide;

4-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-N-{5-[4-(2-trifluoromethyl-benzoyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-pyridin-2-yl}-butyramide; and

3-Phenyl-N-{5-[4-(2-trifluoromethyl-benzoyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-pyridin-2-yl}-propionamide.

18. (Original) The compound of Claim 15 wherein:

R^2 is C_1-C_{12}alkyl or C_2-C_{12}alkenyl; and

R^3 is phenyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6trihaloalkyl and C_1-C_6trihaloalkoxy.

19. (Original) The compound of Claim 18 selected from the group consisting of the following:

Hexanoic acid {5-[4-(2-trifluoromethyl-benzoyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-pyridin-2-yl}-amide;

Heptanoic acid {5-[4-(2-trifluoromethyl-benzoyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-pyridin-2-yl}-amide; and

5-Methylpentanoic acid {5-[4-(2-trifluoromethyl-benzoyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-pyridin-2-yl}-amide.

20. (Original) The compound of Claim 15 wherein:

R^2 is C_3-C_{12}heteroarylalkyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents

selected from the group consisting of halo, C_1-C_3alkyl and C_1-C_6trihaloalkyl; and

R^3 is phenyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6trihaloalkyl and C_1-C_6trihaloalkoxy.

21. (Original) The compound of Claim 20, namely, 3-Pyridin-3-yl-N-{5-[4-(2-trifluoromethyl-benzoyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-pyridin-2-yl}-propionamide.

22. (Original) The compound of Claim 15 wherein:

R^2 is phenyl optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from halo and C_1-C_6trihaloalkyl; and

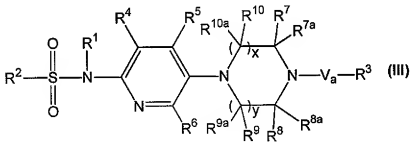
R^3 is phenyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6trihaloalkyl and C_1-C_6trihaloalkoxy.

23. (Original) The compound of Claim 22, namely, 4-Fluoro-*N*-{5-[4-(2-trifluoromethylbenzoyl)piperazin-1-yl]pyridin-2-yl}benzamide.

24. (Original) A method of treating a disease or condition mediated by stearoyl-CoA desaturase (SCD) in a mammal, wherein the method comprises administering to a mammal in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 14.

25. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 14.

26. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (III):



(III)

wherein:

x and y are each independently 1~~, 2 or 3~~;

V_a is -C(O)-, -C(S)-, -C(O)N(R^1)-, -C(O)O-, -$S(O)_2$- or -$S(O)_2N(R^1)$-;

each R^1 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_1-C_{12}alkyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkyl, C_4-C_{12}cycloalkylalkyl and C_7-C_{19}aralkyl;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_{12}alkyl, C_2-C_{12}alkenyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkenyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_{12}alkoxyalkyl, C_3-C_{12}cycloalkyl, C_4-C_{12}cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, C_7-C_{19}aralkyl, C_3-C_{12} heterocyclyl, C_3-C_{12}heterocyclylalkyl, C_1-C_{12}heteroaryl and C_3-C_{12}heteroarylalkyl;

or R^2 is a multi-ring structure having 2 to 4 rings wherein the rings are independently selected from the group consisting of cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, aryl and heteroaryl, where some or all of the rings may be fused to each other;

R^3 is selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_{12}alkyl, C_2-C_{12}alkenyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkenyl, C_2-C_{12}alkoxyalkyl, C_3-C_{12}cycloalkyl, C_4-C_{12}cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, C_7-C_{19}aralkyl, C_3-C_{12}heterocyclyl, C_3-C_{12}heterocyclylalkyl, C_1-C_{12}heteroaryl and C_3-C_{12}heteroarylalkyl;

or R^3 is a multi-ring structure having 2 to 4 rings wherein the rings are independently selected from the group consisting of cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, aryl and heteroaryl and where some or all of the rings may be fused to each other;

R^4, R^5 and R^6 are each independently selected from hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, methyl, methoxy, trifluoromethyl, cyano, nitro or -$N(R^{13})_2$;

R^7, R^{7a}, R^8, R^{8a}, R^9, R^{9a}, R^{10}, and R^{10a} are each independently selected from hydrogen or C_1-C_3alkyl;

~~or R^7 and R^{7a} together, or R^8 and R^{8a} together, or R^9 and R^{9a} together, or R^{10} and R^{10a} together are an oxo group, provided that when V_a is -C(O)-, R^z and R^{7a} together or R^8 and R^{8a} together do not form an oxo group, while the remaining R^7, R^{7a}, R^8, R^{8a}, R^9, R^{9a}, R^{10}, and R^{10a} are each independently selected from hydrogen or C_1-C_3alkyl;~~

~~or one of R^{10}, R^{10a}, R^7, and R^{7a} together with one of R^8, R^{8a}, R^9 and R^{9a} form an alkylene bridge, while the remaining R^{10}, R^{10a}, R^7, R^{7a}, R^8, R^{8a}, R^9, and R^{9a} are each independently selected from hydrogen or C_1-C_3alkyl;~~ and

each R^{13} is independently selected from hydrogen or C_1-C_6alkyl;

a stereoisomer, enantiomer or tautomer thereof, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, a pharmaceutical composition thereof or a prodrug thereof.

27. (Original) The compound of Claim 26 wherein:

x and y are each 1;

V_a is -C(O)-;

R^1 is hydrogen or C_1-C_6alkyl;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_{12}alkyl, C_2-C_{12}alkenyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkenyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_{12}alkoxyalkyl, C_3-C_{12}cycloalkyl, C_4-C_{12}cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, C_7-C_{19}aralkyl, C_3-C_{12} heterocyclyl, C_3-C_{12}heterocyclylalkyl, C_1-C_{12}heteroaryl and C_3-C_{12}heteroarylalkyl;

R^3 is selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_{12}alkyl, C_2-C_{12}alkenyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkenyl, C_2-C_{12}alkoxyalkyl, C_3-C_{12}cycloalkyl, C_4-C_{12}cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, C_7-C_{19}aralkyl, C_3-C_{12}heterocyclyl, C_3-C_{12}heterocyclylalkyl, C_1-C_{12}heteroaryl and C_3-C_{12}heteroarylalkyl;

R^4, R^5 and R^6 are each hydrogen; and

R^7, R^{7a}, R^8, R^{8a}, R^9, R^{9a}, R^{10}, and R^{10a} are each hydrogen.

28. (Original) The compound of Claim 27 wherein:

R^3 is phenyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, cyano, nitro, hydroxy, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6trihaloalkyl, C_1-C_6trihaloalkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylsulfonyl, -$N(R^{12})_2$, -$OC(O)R^{12}$, -$C(O)OR^{12}$, -$S(O)_2N(R^{12})_2$, cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl and heteroarylcycloalkyl; and

each R^{12} is independently selected from hydrogen, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_3-C_6cycloalkyl, aryl or aralkyl.

29. (Original) The compound of Claim 28 wherein:

R^2 is C_1-C_{12}alkyl or C_2-C_{12}alkenyl; and

R^3 is phenyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6trihaloalkyl and C_1-C_6trihaloalkoxy.

30. (Original) The compound of Claim 29 selected from the group consisting of the following:

Pentane-1-sulfonic acid {5-[4-(2-trifluoromethyl-benzoyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-pyridin-2-yl}-amide; and

Hexane-1-sulfonic acid {5-[4-(2-trifluoromethyl-benzoyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-pyridin-2-yl}-amide.

31. (Original) The compound of Claim 28 wherein:

R^2 is C_7-C_{12}aralkyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, C_1-C_3alkyl and C_1-C_6trihaloalkyl; and

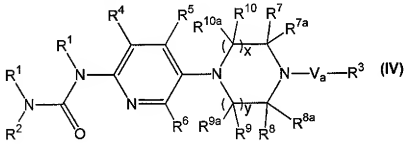
R^3 is phenyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6trihaloalkyl and C_1-C_6trihaloalkoxy.

32. (Original) The compound of Claim 31, namely, 3-Phenyl-propane-1-sulfonic acid {5-[4-(2-trifluoromethyl-benzoyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-pyridin-2-yl}-amide.

33. (Original) A method of treating a disease or condition mediated by stearoyl-CoA desaturase (SCD) in a mammal, wherein the method comprises administering to a mammal in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 26.

34. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 26.

35. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (IV):



wherein:

x and y are each independently 1~~, 2 or 3~~;

V_a is -C(O)-, -C(S)-, -C(O)N(R^1)-, -C(O)O-, -S($O)_2$- or -S($O)_2$N(R^1)-;

each R^1 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_1-C_{12}alkyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkyl, C_4-C_{12}cycloalkylalkyl and C_7-C_{19}aralkyl;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_{12}alkyl, C_2-C_{12}alkenyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkenyl, C_3-C_{12}alkoxyalkyl, C_3-C_{12}cycloalkyl, C_4-C_{12}cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, C_7-C_{19}aralkyl, C_3-C_{12} heterocyclyl, C_3-C_{12}heterocyclylalkyl, C_1-C_{12}heteroaryl and C_3-C_{12}heteroarylalkyl;

or R^2 is a multi-ring structure having 2 to 4 rings wherein the rings are independently selected from the group consisting of cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, aryl and heteroaryl, where some or all of the rings may be fused to each other;

R^3 is selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_{12}alkyl, C_2-C_{12}alkenyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkenyl, C_2-C_{12}alkoxyalkyl, C_3-C_{12}cycloalkyl, C_4-C_{12}cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, C_7-C_{19}aralkyl, C_3-C_{12}heterocyclyl, C_3-C_{12}heterocyclylalkyl, C_1-C_{12}heteroaryl and C_3-C_{12}heteroarylalkyl;

or R^3 is a multi-ring structure having 2 to 4 rings wherein the rings are independently selected from the group consisting of cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, aryl and heteroaryl and where some or all of the rings may be fused to each other;

R^4, R^5 and R^6 are each independently selected from hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, methyl, methoxy, trifluoromethyl, cyano, nitro or $-N(R^{15})_2$;

R^7, R^{7a}, R^8, R^{8a}, R^9, R^{9a}, R^{10}, and R^{10a} are each independently selected from hydrogen or C_1-C_3alkyl;

~~or R^7 and R^{7a} together, or R^9 and R^{8a} together, or R^9 and R^{9a} together, or R^{10} and R^{10a} together are an oxo group, provided that when V_a is -C(O)-, R^7 and R^{7a} together or R^8 and R^{8a} together do not form an oxo group, while the remaining R^7, R^{7a}, R^8, R^{8a}, R^9, R^{9a}, R^{10}, and R^{10a} are each independently selected from hydrogen or C_1-C_3alkyl;~~

~~or one of R^{10}, R^{10a}, R^7, and R^{7a} together with one of R^8, R^{8a}, R^9 and R^{9a} form an alkylene bridge, while the remaining R^{10}, R^{10a}, R^7, R^{7a}, R^8, R^{8a}, R^9, and R^{9a} are each independently selected from hydrogen or C_1-C_3alkyl;~~ and

each R^{15} is independently selected from hydrogen or C_1-C_6alkyl;

a stereoisomer, enantiomer or tautomer thereof, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, a pharmaceutical composition thereof or a prodrug thereof.

36. (Original) The compound of Claim 35 wherein:

x and y are each 1;

V_a is -C(O)-;

each R^1 is independently hydrogen or C_1-C_6alkyl;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_{12}alkyl, C_2-C_{12}alkenyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkenyl, C_3-C_{12}alkoxyalkyl, C_3-C_{12}cycloalkyl, C_4-C_{12}cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, C_7-C_{19}aralkyl, C_3-C_{12} heterocyclyl, C_3-C_{12}heterocyclylalkyl, C_1-C_{12}heteroaryl and C_3-C_{12}heteroarylalkyl;

R^3 is selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_{12}alkyl, C_2-C_{12}alkenyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkenyl, C_2-C_{12}alkoxyalkyl, C_3-C_{12}cycloalkyl, C_4-C_{12}cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, C_7-C_{19}aralkyl, C_3-C_{12}heterocyclyl, C_3-C_{12}heterocyclylalkyl, C_1-C_{12}heteroaryl and C_3-C_{12}heteroarylalkyl;

R^4, R^5 and R^6 are each hydrogen; and

R^7, R^{7a}, R^8, R^{8a}, R^9, R^{9a}, R^{10}, and R^{10a} are each hydrogen.

37. (Original) The compound of Claim 36 wherein:

R^3 is phenyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, cyano, nitro, hydroxy, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6trihaloalkyl, C_1-C_6trihaloalkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylsulfonyl, $-N(R^{12})_2$, $-OC(O)R^{12}$, $-C(O)OR^{12}$, $-S(O)_2N(R^{12})_2$, cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl and heteroarylcycloalkyl; and

each R^{12} is independently selected from hydrogen, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_3-C_6cycloalkyl, aryl or aralkyl.

38. (Original) The compound of Claim 37 wherein:

R^2 is C_1-C_{12}alkyl or C_2-C_{12}alkenyl; and

R^3 is phenyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6trihaloalkyl and C_1-C_6trihaloalkoxy.

39. (Original) The compound of Claim 38 selected from the group consisting of the following:

1-(3-Methyl-butyl)-3-{5-[4-(2-trifluoromethyl-benzoyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-pyridin-2-yl}-urea;

1-Pentyl-3-{5-[4-(2-trifluoromethyl-benzoyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-pyridin-2-yl}-urea; and

1-Butyl-3-{5-[4-(2-trifluoromethyl-benzoyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-pyridin-2-yl}-urea.

40. (Original) The compound of Claim 37 wherein:

R^2 is C_7-C_{12}aralkyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, C_1-C_3alkyl and C_1-C_6trihaloalkyl; and

R^3 is phenyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_8trihaloalkyl and C_1-C_6trihaloalkoxy.

41. (Original) The compound of Claim 40 selected from the group consisting of the

following:

1-[3-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-propyl]-3-{5-[4-(2-trifluoromethyl-benzoyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-pyridin-2-yl}-urea;

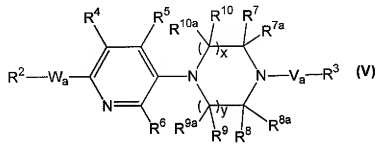
1-Phenethyl-3-{5-[4-(2-trifluoromethyl-benzoyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-pyridin-2-yl}-urea; and

1-Benzyl-3-{5-[4-(2-trifluoromethyl-benzoyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-pyridin-2-yl}-urea.

42. (Original) A method of treating a disease or condition mediated by stearoyl-CoA desaturase (SCD) in a mammal, wherein the method comprises administering to a mammal in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 35.

43. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 35.

44. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (V):



wherein:

x and y are each independently 1, ~~2 or 3~~;

W_a is -O-, $-N(R^1)-$ or $-S(O)_t-$ (where t is 0, 1 or 2);

V_a is -C(O)-, -C(S)-, $-C(O)N(R^1)-$, -C(O)O-, $-S(O)_2-$ or $-S(O)_2N(R^1)-$;

x and y are each independently 1, 2 or 3;

each R^1 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_1-C_{12}alkyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkyl, C_4-C_{12}cycloalkylalkyl and C_7-C_{19}aralkyl;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_{12}alkyl, C_2-C_{12}alkenyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkenyl, C_3-C_{12}alkoxyalkyl, C_3-C_{12}cycloalkyl, C_4-C_{12}cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, C_7-C_{19}aralkyl, C_3-C_{12} heterocyclyl, C_3-C_{12}heterocyclylalkyl, C_1-C_{12}heteroaryl and C_3-C_{12}heteroarylalkyl;

or R^2 is a multi-ring structure having 2 to 4 rings wherein the rings are

independently selected from the group consisting of cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, aryl and heteroaryl, where some or all of the rings may be fused to each other;

R^3 is selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_{12}alkyl, C_2-C_{12}alkenyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkenyl, C_2-C_{12}alkoxyalkyl, C_3-C_{12}cycloalkyl, C_4-C_{12}cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, C_7-C_{19}aralkyl, C_3-C_{12}heterocyclyl, C_3-C_{12}heterocyclylalkyl, C_1-C_{12}heteroaryl and C_3-C_{12}heteroarylalkyl;

or R^3 is a multi-ring structure having 2 to 4 rings wherein the rings are independently selected from the group consisting of cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, aryl and heteroaryl and where some or all of the rings may be fused to each other;

R^4, R^5 and R^6 are each independently selected from hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, methyl, methoxy, trifluoromethyl, cyano, nitro or $-N(R^{13})_2$;

R^7, R^{7a}, R^8, R^{8a}, R^9, R^{9a}, R^{10}, and R^{10a} are each independently selected from hydrogen or C_1-C_3alkyl;

~~or R^7 and R^{7a} together, or R^8 and R^{8a} together, or R^9 and R^{9a} together, or R^{10} and R^{10a} together are an oxo group, provided that when V_a is -C(O)-, R^7 and R^{7a} together or R^8 and R^{8a} together do not form an oxo group, while the remaining R^7, R^{7a}, R^8, R^{8a}, R^9, R^{9a}, R^{10}, and R^{10a} are each independently selected from hydrogen or C_1-C_3alkyl;~~

~~or one of R^{10}, R^{10a}, R^7, and R^{7a} together with one of R^8, R^{8a}, R^9 and R^{9a} form an alkylene bridge, while the remaining R^{10}, R^{10a}, R^7, R^{7a}, R^8, R^{8a}, R^9, and R^{9a} are each independently selected from hydrogen or C_1-C_3alkyl;~~ and

each R^{13} is independently selected from hydrogen or C_1-C_6alkyl;

a stereoisomer, enantiomer or tautomer thereof, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, a pharmaceutical composition thereof or a prodrug thereof.

45. (Original) The compound of Claim 44 wherein:

x and y are each 1;

W_a is -O-;

V_a is -C(O)-;

R^1 is hydrogen or C_1-C_6alkyl;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_{12}alkyl, C_2-C_{12}alkenyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkenyl, C_3-C_{12}alkoxyalkyl, C_3-C_{12}cycloalkyl, C_4-C_{12}cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, C_7-C_{19}aralkyl, C_3-C_{12} heterocyclyl, C_3-C_{12}heterocyclylalkyl, C_1-C_{12}heteroaryl and C_3-C_{12}heteroarylalkyl;

R^3 is selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_{12}alkyl, C_2-C_{12}alkenyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkenyl, C_2-C_{12}alkoxyalkyl, C_3-C_{12}cycloalkyl, C_4-C_{12}cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, C_7-C_{19}aralkyl, C_3-C_{12}heterocyclyl, C_3-C_{12}heterocyclylalkyl, C_1-C_{12}heteroaryl and C_3-C_{12}heteroarylalkyl;

R^4, R^5 and R^6 are each hydrogen; and

R^7, R^{7a}, R^8, R^{8a}, R^9, R^{9a}, R^{10}, and R^{10a} are each hydrogen.

46. (Original) The compound of Claim 45 wherein:

R^3 is phenyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, cyano, nitro, hydroxy, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6trihaloalkyl, C_1-C_6trihaloalkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylsulfonyl, $-N(R^{12})_2$, $-OC(O)R^{12}$, $-C(O)OR^{12}$, $-S(O)_2N(R^{12})_2$, cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl and heteroarylcycloalkyl; and

each R^{12} is independently selected from hydrogen, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_3-C_6cycloalkyl, aryl or aralkyl.

47. (Original) The compound of Claim 44 wherein:

x and y are each 1;

W_a is $-N(R^1)-$;

V_a is -C(O)-;

R^1 is hydrogen or C_1-C_6alkyl;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_{12}alkyl, C_2-C_{12}alkenyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkenyl, C_3-C_{12}alkoxyalkyl, C_3-C_{12}cycloalkyl, C_4-C_{12}cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, C_7-C_{19}aralkyl, C_3-C_{12} heterocyclyl, C_3-C_{12}heterocyclylalkyl, C_1-C_{12}heteroaryl and C_3-C_{12}heteroarylalkyl;

R^3 is selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_{12}alkyl, C_2-C_{12}alkenyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkenyl, C_2-C_{12}alkoxyalkyl, C_3-C_{12}cycloalkyl, C_4-C_{12}cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, C_7-C_{19}aralkyl, C_3-C_{12}heterocyclyl, C_3-C_{12}heterocyclylalkyl, C_1-C_{12}heteroaryl and C_3-C_{12}heteroarylalkyl;

R^4, R^5 and R^6 are each hydrogen; and

R^7, R^{7a}, R^8, R^{8a}, R^9, R^{9a}, R^{10}, and R^{10a} are each hydrogen.

48. (Original) The compound of Claim 47 wherein:

R^3 is phenyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the

group consisting of halo, cyano, nitro, hydroxy, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6trihaloalkyl, C_1-C_6trihaloalkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylsulfonyl, -$N(R^{12})_2$, -$OC(O)R^{12}$, -$C(O)OR^{12}$, -$S(O)_2N(R^{12})_2$, cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl and heteroarylcycloalkyl; and

each R^{12} is independently selected from hydrogen, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_3-C_6cycloalkyl, aryl or aralkyl.

49. (Original) The compound of Claim 44 wherein:

x and y are each 1;

W_a is -$S(O)_t$- (where t is 0, 1 or 2);

V_a is -C(O)-;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_{12}alkyl, C_2-C_{12}alkenyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkenyl, C_3-C_{12}alkoxyalkyl, C_3-C_{12}cycloalkyl, C_4-C_{12}cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, C_7-C_{19}aralkyl, C_3-C_{12} heterocyclyl, C_3-C_{12}heterocyclylalkyl, C_1-C_{12}heteroaryl and C_3-C_{12}heteroarylalkyl;

R^3 is selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_{12}alkyl, C_2-C_{12}alkenyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkenyl, C_2-C_{12}alkoxyalkyl, C_3-C_{12}cycloalkyl, C_4-C_{12}cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, C_7-C_{19}aralkyl, C_3-C_{12}heterocyclyl, C_3-C_{12}heterocyclylalkyl, C_1-C_{12}heteroaryl and C_3-C_{12}heteroarylalkyl;

R^4, R^5 and R^6 are each hydrogen; and

R^7, R^{7a}, R^8, R^{8a}, R^9, R^{9a}, R^{10}, and R^{10a} are each hydrogen.

50. (Original) The compound of Claim 49 wherein:

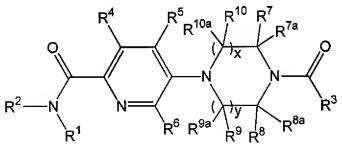
R^3 is phenyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, cyano, nitro, hydroxy, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6trihaloalkyl, C_1-C_6trihaloalkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylsulfonyl, -$N(R^{12})_2$, -$OC(O)R^{12}$, -$C(O)OR^{12}$, -$S(O)_2N(R^{12})_2$, cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl and heteroarylcycloalkyl; and

each R^{12} is independently selected from hydrogen, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_3-C_6cycloalkyl, aryl or aralkyl.

51. (Original) A method of treating a disease or condition mediated by stearoyl-CoA desaturase (SCD) in a mammal, wherein the method comprises administering to a mammal in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 44.

52. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 44.

53. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (VIa):



(VIa)

wherein:

x and y are each independently 1~~, 2 or 3~~;

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_1-C_{12}alkyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkyl, C_4-C_{12}cycloalkylalkyl and C_7-C_{19}aralkyl;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of C_7-C_{12}alkyl, C_3-C_{12}alkenyl, C_7-C_{12}hydroxyalkyl, C_2-C_{12}alkoxyalkyl, C_3-C_{12}hydroxyalkenyl, C_3-C_{12}cycloalkyl, C_4-C_{12}cycloalkylalkyl, C_{13}-C_{19}aralkyl, C_3-C_{12}heterocyclylalkyl, and C_3-C_{12}heteroarylalkyl;

or R^2 is a multi-ring structure having 2 to 4 rings wherein the rings are independently selected from the group consisting of cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, aryl and heteroaryl, where some or all of the rings may be fused to each other;

R^3 is selected from the group consisting of C_3-C_{12}alkyl, C_3-C_{12}alkenyl, C_3-C_{12}hydroxyalkyl, C_3-C_{12}hydroxyalkenyl, C_3-C_{12}alkoxy, C_3-C_{12}alkoxyalkyl, C_3-C_{12}cycloalkyl, C_4-C_{12}cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, C_7-C_{19}aralkyl, C_3-C_{12}heterocyclyl, C_3-C_{12}heterocyclylalkyl, C_5-C_{12} heteroaryl and C_3-C_{12}heteroarylalkyl;

or R^3 is a multi-ring structure having 2 to 4 rings wherein the rings are independently selected from the group consisting of cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, aryl and heteroaryl and where some or all of the rings may be fused to each other;

R^4, R^5 and R^6 are each independently selected from hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, methyl, methoxy, trifluoromethyl, cyano, nitro or $-N(R^{13})_2$;

R^7, R^{7a}, R^8, R^{8a}, R^9, R^{9a}, R^{10}, and R^{10a} are each independently selected from hydrogen or C_1-C_3alkyl;

~~or R^7 and R^{7a} together, or R^8 and R^{8a} together, or R^9 and R^{9a} together, or R^{10} and~~

~~R^{10a} together are an oxo group, provided that when V_a is $-C(O)-$, R^7 and R^{7a} together or R^8 and R^{8a} together do not form an oxo group, while the remaining R^7, R^{7a}, R^8, R^{8a}, R^9, R^{9a}, R^{10}, and R^{10a} are each independently selected from hydrogen or C_1-C_3alkyl;~~

~~or one of R^{10}, R^{10a}, R^7, and R^{7a} together with one of R^8, R^{8a}, R^9 and R^{9a} form an alkylene bridge, while the remaining R^{10}, R^{10a}, R^7, R^{7a}, R^8, R^{8a}, R^9, and R^{9a} are each independently selected from hydrogen or C_1-C_3alkyl;~~ and

each R^{13} is independently selected from hydrogen or C_1-C_6alkyl;

including a stereoisomer, enantiomer or tautomer thereof, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, a pharmaceutical composition thereof or a prodrug thereof.

54. (Original) The compound of Claim 53 wherein:

x and y are each 1;

R^1 is hydrogen or C_1-C_6alkyl;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of C_7-C_{12}alkyl, C_3-C_{12}alkenyl, C_7-C_{12}hydroxyalkyl, C_2-C_{12}alkoxyalkyl, C_3-C_{12}hydroxyalkenyl, C_3-C_{12}cycloalkyl, C_4-C_{12}cycloalkylalkyl, C_{13}-C_{19}aralkyl, C_3-C_{12}heterocyclylalkyl, and C_3-C_{12}heteroarylalkyl;

R^3 is selected from the group consisting of C_3-C_{12}alkyl, C_3-C_{12}alkenyl, C_3-C_{12}hydroxyalkyl, C_3-C_{12}hydroxyalkenyl, C_3-C_{12}alkoxy, C_3-C_{12}alkoxyalkyl, C_3-C_{12}cycloalkyl, C_4-C_{12}cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, C_7-C_{19}aralkyl, C_3-C_{12}heterocyclyl, C_3-C_{12}heterocyclylalkyl, C_5-C_{12} heteroaryl and C_3-C_{12}heteroarylalkyl;

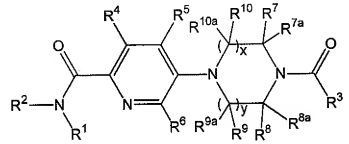
R^4, R^5 and R^6 are each hydrogen; and

R^7, R^{7a}, R^8, R^{8a}, R^9, R^{9a}, R^{10}, and R^{10a} are each hydrogen.

55. (Original) A method of treating a disease or condition mediated by stearoyl-CoA desaturase (SCD) in a mammal, wherein the method comprises administering to a mammal in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 53.

56. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 53.

57. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (VIb):



(VIb)

wherein:

x and y are each independently 1, ~~2 or 3~~;

each R^1 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_1-C_{12}alkyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkyl, C_4-C_{12}cycloalkylalkyl and C_7-C_{19}aralkyl;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_{12}alkyl, C_2-C_{12}alkenyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkenyl, C_3-C_{12}alkoxyalkyl, C_3-C_{12}cycloalkyl, C_4-C_{12}cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, C_7-C_{19}aralkyl, C_3-C_{12} heterocyclyl, C_3-C_{12}heterocyclylalkyl, C_1-C_{12}heteroaryl and C_3-C_{12}heteroarylalkyl;

or R^2 is a multi-ring structure having 2 to 4 rings wherein the rings are independently selected from the group consisting of cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, aryl and heteroaryl, where some or all of the rings may be fused to each other;

R^3 is naphthyl or phenyl, each optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, cyano, nitro, hydroxy, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6trihaloalkyl, C_1-C_6trihaloalkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylsulfonyl, $-N(R^{12})_2$, $-OC(O)R^{12}$, $-C(O)OR^{12}$, $-S(O)_2N(R^{12})_2$, cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl and heteroarylcycloalkyl, provided that R^3 is not phenyl substituted with optionally substituted thienyl, and provided that when R^3 is naphthyl, R^2 can not be C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6hydroxyalkyl or phenyl substituted by amino;

R^4, R^5 and R^6 are each independently selected from hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, methyl, methoxy, trifluoromethyl, cyano, nitro or $-N(R^{13})_2$;

R^7, R^{7a}, R^8, R^{8a}, R^9, R^{9a}, R^{10}, and R^{10a} are each independently selected from hydrogen or C_1-C_3alkyl;

~~or R^7 and R^{7a} together, or R^8 and R^{8a} together, or R^9 and R^{9a} together, or R^{10} and R^{10a} together are an oxo group, provided that when V_a is C(O), R^7 and R^{7a} together or R^8 and R^{8a} together do not form an oxo group, while the remaining R^7, R^{7a}, R^8, R^{8a}, R^9, R^{9a}, R^{10}, and R^{10a} are each independently selected from hydrogen or C_1-C_3alkyl;~~

~~or one of R^{10}, R^{10a}, R^7, and R^{7a} together with one of R^8, R^{8a}, R^9 and R^{9a} form an alkylene bridge, while the remaining R^{10}, R^{10a}, R^7, R^{7a}, R^8, R^{8a}, R^9, and R^{9a} are each independently selected from hydrogen or C_1-C_3alkyl;~~

each R^{12} is independently selected from hydrogen, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_3-C_6cycloalkyl, aryl or aralkyl; and

each R^{13} is independently selected from hydrogen or C_1-C_6alkyl;

a stereoisomer, enantiomer or tautomer thereof, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, a pharmaceutical composition thereof or a prodrug thereof.

58. (Original) The compound of Claim 57 wherein:

x and y are each 1;

R^1 is hydrogen or C_1-C_6alkyl;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_{12}alkyl, C_2-C_{12}alkenyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkyl, C_2-C_{12}hydroxyalkenyl, C_3-C_{12}alkoxyalkyl, C_3-C_{12}cycloalkyl, C_4-C_{12}cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, C_7-C_{19}aralkyl, C_3-C_{12} heterocyclyl, C_3-C_{12}heterocyclylalkyl, C_1-C_{12}heteroaryl and C_3-C_{12}heteroarylalkyl;

R^3 is naphthyl or phenyl, each optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, cyano, nitro, hydroxy, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6trihaloalkyl, C_1-C_6trihaloalkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylsulfonyl, $-N(R^{12})_2$, $-OC(O)R^{12}$, $-C(O)OR^{12}$ or $-S(O)_2N(R^{12})_2$;

R^4, R^5 and R^6 are each hydrogen;

R^7, R^{7a}, R^8, R^{8a}, R^9, R^{9a}, R^{10}, and R^{10a} are each hydrogen; and

each R^{12} is independently selected from hydrogen, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_3-C_6cycloalkyl, aryl or aralkyl.

59. (Original) The compound of Claim 58 wherein:

R^2 is C_7-C_{12}aralkyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, C_1-C_3alkyl and C_1-C_6trihaloalkyl; and

R^3 is phenyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6trihaloalkyl and C_1-C_6trihaloalkoxy.

60. (Original) The compound of Claim 59 selected from the group consisting of the following:

5-[4-(2-Trifluoromethyl-benzoyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (3-phenyl-propyl)-

amide;
5-[4-(2-Trifluoromethyl-benzoyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-pyridine-2-carboxylic acid phenethyl-amide;
5-[4-(2-Trifluoromethylbenzoyl)piperazin-1-yl]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid [2-(4-fluoro-phenyl)ethyl]amide;
5-[4-(2-Trifluoromethyl-benzoyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-pyridine-2-carboxylic acid [3-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-propyl]-amide;
5-[4-(2-Trifluoromethyl-benzoyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-pyridine-2-carboxylic acid 4-trifluoromethyl-benzylamide;
5-[4-(2-Trifluoromethyl-benzoyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-pyridine-2-carboxylic acid [3-(4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-propyl]-amide; and
5-[4-(2-Trifluoromethyl-benzoyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-pyridine-2-carboxylic acid [2-(4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-ethyl]-amide.

61. (Original) The compound of Claim 58 wherein:
R^2 is C_1-C_{12}alkyl or C_2-C_{12}alkenyl; and
R^3 is phenyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6trihaloalkyl and C_1-C_6trihaloalkoxy.

62. (Original) The compound of Claim 61 selected from the group consisting of the following:
5-[4-(2-Trifluoromethyl-benzoyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (3-methyl-butyl)-amide;
5-[4-(2-Trifluoromethyl-benzoyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-pyridine-2-carboxylic acid hexylamide;
5-[4-(2-Trifluoromethyl-benzoyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-pyridine-2-carboxylic acid pentylamide;
5-[4-(4-Fluoro-2-trifluoromethyl-benzoyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (3-methyl-butyl)-amide; and
5-[4-(5-Fluoro-2-trifluoromethyl-benzoyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (3-methyl-butyl)-amide.

63. (Original) The compound of Claim 58 wherein:
R^2 is C_3-C_{12}cycloalkyl or C_4-C_{12}cycloalkylalkyl; and
R^3 is phenyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6trihaloalkyl and C_1-C_6trihaloalkoxy.

64. (Original) The compound of Claim 63 selected from the group consisting of the following:

5-[4-(2-Trifluoromethylbenzoyl)piperazin-1-yl]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (3-cyclohexyl-propyl)amide;

5-[4-(6-Trifluoromethyl-cyclohexa-1,3-dienecarbonyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (2-cyclohexyl-ethyl)-amide; and

5-[4-(2-Trifluoromethyl-benzoyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-pyridine-2-carboxylic acid cyclohexylmethyl-amide.

65. (Original) The compound of Claim 58 wherein:

R^2 is C_3-C_{12}heterocyclylalkyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, cyano, nitro, hydroxy, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6trihaloalkyl, C_1-C_6trihaloalkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylsulfonyl, $-N(R^{12})_2$, $-OC(O)R^{12}$, $-C(O)OR^{12}$ and $-S(O)_2N(R^{12})_2$;

R^3 is phenyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6trihaloalkyl and C_1-C_6trihaloalkoxy; and

each R^{12} is independently selected from hydrogen, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_3-C_6cycloalkyl, aryl or aralkyl.

66. (Original) The compound of Claim 65 wherein R^2 is 2-piperazinylethyl optionally substituted by $-C(O)OR^{12}$.

67. (Original) The compound of Claim 66, namely, 4-[2-({5-[4-(2-Trifluoromethyl-benzoyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-pyridine-2-carbonyl}-amino)-ethyl]-piperazine-1-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester.

68. (Original) The compound of Claim 58 wherein:

R^2 is C_7-C_{12}aralkyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, C_1-C_3alkyl and C_1-C_6trihaloalkyl; and

R^3 is naphthyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6trihaloalkyl and C_1-C_6trihaloalkoxy.

69. (Original) The compound of Claim 68 selected from the group consisting of the

following:

5-[4-(Naphthalene-1-carbonyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (3-phenyl-propyl)-amide; and

5-[4-(Naphthalene-1-carbonyl)piperazin-1-yl]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid phenethylamide.

70. (Original) A method of treating a disease or condition mediated by stearoyl-CoA desaturase (SCD) in a mammal, wherein the method comprises administering to a mammal in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 57.

71. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 57.